

DRAFT

Austin

Community Lake

Ten-Year Area Management Plan

FY 2017-2026



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OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Austin Community Lake, # 5510
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1955
- **Acreage:** 57 acres
- **County:** Texas
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Statements of Purpose:**

A. Strategic Direction

Manage for a quality public lake fishery while providing other compatible recreational opportunities. Manage surrounding forest to protect area watershed.

B. Desired Future Condition

The desired future condition of Austin Community Lake (CL) is a healthy public fishery surrounded by a healthy forested watershed.

C. Federal Aid Statement

N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

I. Special Considerations

- A. Priority Areas:** None
- B. Natural Areas:** None

II. Important Natural Features and Resources

- A. Species of Conservation Concern:** None observed
- B. Caves:** None
- C. Springs:** None

Existing Infrastructure

- 1 parking lot, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible
- 1 concrete boat ramp
- 2 privies, ADA accessible
- 1 fishing dock, ADA accessible
- 1 pavilion, ADA accessible
- 6 picnic tables, ADA accessible
- 2 sitting benches
- Austin fishing lake (22 acres)

III. Area Restrictions or Limitations

- A. **Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations:** None
- B. **Federal Interest:** Federal funds may be used in the management of this land. Fish and wildlife agencies may not allow recreational activities and related facilities that would interfere with the purpose for which the State is managing the land. Other uses may be acceptable and must be assessed in each specific situation.
- C. **Easements:** None
- D. **Cultural Resources Findings:** No known cultural resources.
- E. **Hazards and Hazardous Materials:** None observed.
- F. **Endangered Species:** None observed.
- G. **Boundary Issues:** None

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

IV. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

The lake is surrounded by pine and mixed hardwood forests. A residential area is present along the south boundary line.

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Maintain healthy forests to protect watershed.
- 2) Maintain muskrat and beaver populations at acceptable levels.

Management Objective 1: Maintain healthy forests.

Strategy 1: Monitor, at least annually, for priority invasive exotic species and control as needed. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Inspect, at least annually, for any forest insect or disease issues and develop strategies to control any issues that might arise. (Forestry)

Management Objective 2: Maintain muskrat and beaver populations at acceptable levels.

Strategy 1: Continue to utilize trappers to keep aquatic mammal populations at levels that minimize damage to the shoreline, dam and lakeside vegetation. (Forestry)

V. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Enhance fishing opportunities.

Management Objective 1: Enhance fishing opportunities.

Strategy 1: Install artificial fish habitat in the lake every three years.

(Fisheries and Forestry)

Strategy 2: Keep pond dam free of woody vegetation to minimize water level loss. (Forestry and Fisheries)

Strategy 3: Continue to sample fish populations every three years.

(Fisheries)

Strategy 4: Consider increasing annual channel catfish stocking levels to offset removal by fishermen. (Fisheries)

VI. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Provide for fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities.
- 2) Build and enhance relationships with neighboring landowners.

Management Objective 1: Provide for fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities.

Strategy 1: Maintain/enhance suitable access to facilitate ease of bank-fishing opportunities. (Forestry and Fisheries)

Strategy 2: Explore the feasibility of building a hiking trail along the entire perimeter of the lake. (Forestry)

Strategy 3: Install and maintain at least two wood duck boxes at the upper end of lake. (Forestry)

Management Objective 2: Build and enhance relationships with neighboring landowners.

Strategy 1: Develop or maintain open dialogue with all adjacent landowners concerning area management and concerns. (all Divisions)

Strategy 2: Promote watershed protection practices with adjoining landowners. (all Divisions)

VII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Maintain area infrastructure at current levels.

Management Objective 1: Maintain area infrastructure at current levels.

Strategy 1: Maintain area infrastructure in accordance with Missouri Department of Conservation guidelines. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Maintain boundary lines on a five year schedule. (Forestry)

MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

Strategies are considered ongoing unless listed in the following table:

	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
Aquatic Resource Management Considerations										
<i>Objective 1</i>										
Strategy 1			X			X			X	
Strategy 3			X			X			X	
Administrative Considerations										
<i>Objective 1</i>										
Strategy 2		X					X			

APPENDICES

Area Background:

This 57-acre area is primarily forested. Amenities include a concrete boat ramp, picnic areas, pavilion, fishing dock and a 22-acre fishing lake.

To access this area, go 4 miles west of Cabool on Highway 60, 0.75 miles north on Route MM and 0.5 miles east on Greenwood Road.

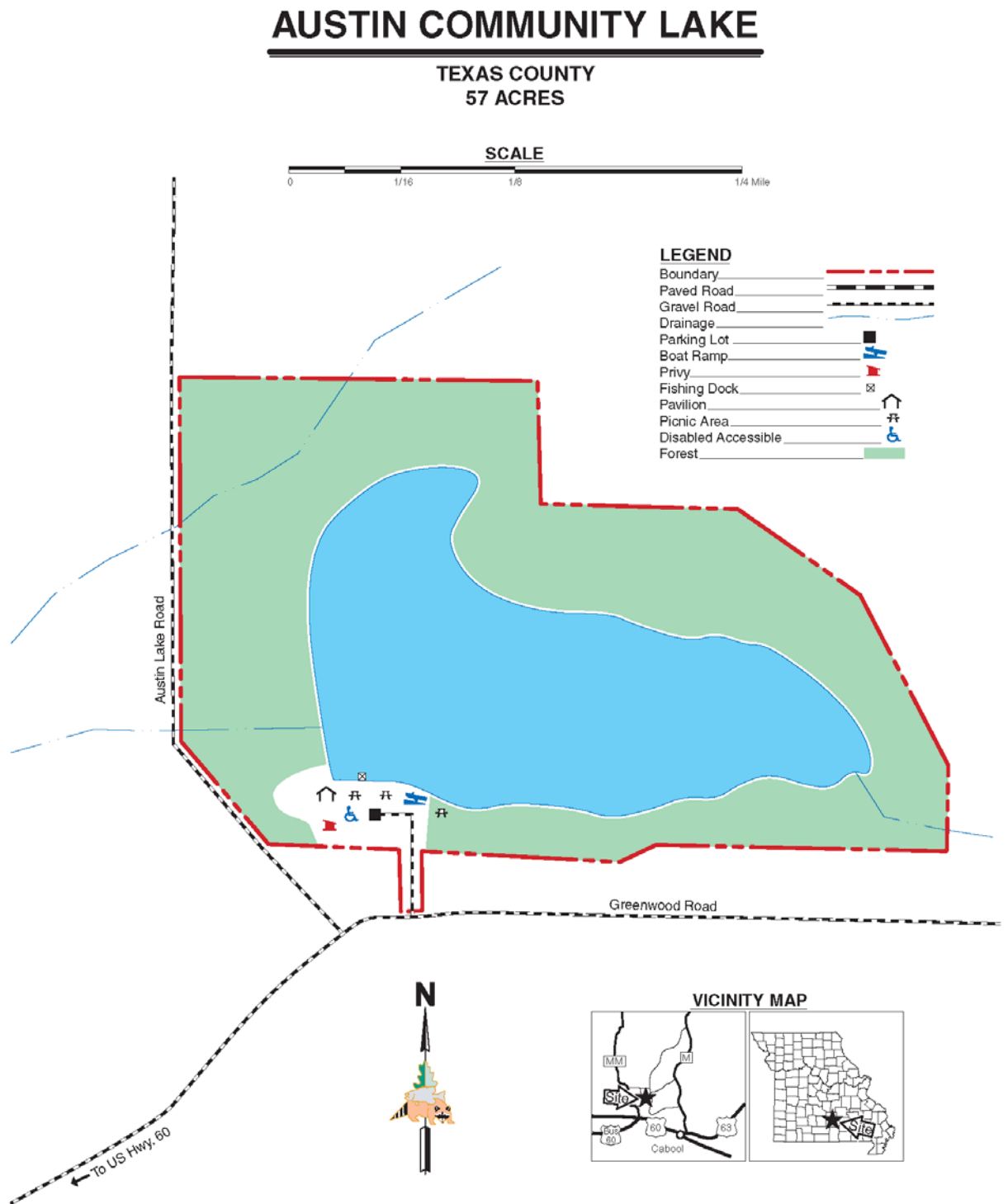
Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	% of Area
Forests and Woodland	29	51
Lake	22	39
Other (mowed area)	6	10
Total	57	100

Maps:

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 1: Area Map



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